

Watauga Democrat.

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WORKINGMEN DIRECTLY CONCERNED.

Instead, then, of being exempted from the influence and effect of an immense surplus lying idle in the national Treasury, our wage earners and others who rely upon their labor for support are most of all directly concerned in the situation.

Others seeing the approach of danger may provide against it, but it will find these depending upon their daily toil for bread unprepared, helpless and defenceless. Such a state of affairs does not present a case of idleness resulting from disputes between the laboring man and his employer, but it produces an absolute and enforced stoppage of employment and wages.

In reviewing the bad effects of this accumulated surplus and the scale of tariff rates by which it is produced we must overlook the tendency toward gross and scandalous public extravagance which a congested Treasury induces, nor that fact that we are maintaining, without excuse, in a time of profound peace, substantially the rate of tariff duties imposed in time of war, when the necessities of the government justified the imposition of the weightiest burden upon the people.

Divers plans have been suggested for the return of this accumulated surplus to the people and the channels of trade. Some of these devices are at variance with all rules of good finance, some are delusive, some are absurd, and some betray by their reckless extravagance the demoralizing influence of a great surplus of public money upon the judgments of individuals.

THE WAR TARIFF IS UNJUST.

While such efforts should be made as are consistent with public duty and sanctioned by sound judgment to avoid danger by the useful disposition of the surplus now remaining in the Treasury, it is evident that if its distribution were accomplished another accumulation would soon take its place if the constant flow of redundant income was not checked at its source by a reform in our present tariff laws.

We do not propose to deal with these conditions by merely attempting to satisfy the people of the truth of abstract theories nor by alone urging their assent to political doctrine. We present to them the propositions that they are unjustly treated in the extent of present federal taxation; that as a result a condition of extreme danger exists, and that it is for them to demand a remedy and that defence and safety promised in the guarantees of their free government.

We believe that the same means which are adopted to relieve the Treasury of its present surplus and prevent its recurrence should cheapen to our people the cost of supplying their daily wants. Both of these objects we seek in part to gain by reducing the present tariff rates upon the necessities of life.

We fully appreciate the importance to the country of our domestic industrial enterprises. In the rectification of existing wrongs their maintenance and prosperity should be carefully and in a friendly spirit considered. Even such reliance upon present revenue arrangements as have been invited or encouraged should be fairly and justly regarded.

NOTHING RADICALLY INTENDED.

Abrupt and radical changes which might endanger such enterprises, and injuriously affect the interests of labor dependent upon their success and continuance are not contemplated or intended.

But we know the cost of our domestic manufactured products is increased and their price to the consumer enhanced by the duty imposed upon the raw material used in their manufacture. We know that this increased cost prevents the sale of our productions at foreign markets in competition with those countries which have the advantage of free raw material. We know that confined to a home market our manufacturing operations are curtailed, their demand for labor irregular and the rate of wages paid are uncertain.

We propose, therefore, to stimulate our domestic industrial enterprises by freeing from duty the imported raw materials which by the employment of labor are used in our home manufactures, thus extending the markets for their sale and permitting an increased and steady production with the allowance of abundant profits.

True to the undeviating course of the democratic party we will not neglect the interests of labor and our workingmen. In all efforts to remedy existing evils, we will furnish no excuse for the loss of employment or the reduction of the wage of honest toil. On the contrary, we propose in any adjustment of our revenue laws to concede such encouragement and advantage to the em-

ployers of domestic labor as will easily compensate for any difference that may exist between the standard of wages which should be paid to our laboring men and the rate allowed in other countries. We propose, too, by extending the markets for our manufacturers to promote the steady employment of labor, while by cheapening the cost of the necessities of life we increase the purchasing power of the workingman's wages and add to the comforts of his home.

LABOR MUST BE PROTECTED.

And before passing from this phase of the question I am constrained to express the opinion that, while the interests of labor should be always sedulously regarded in any modification of our tariff laws, an additional and more direct and efficient protection to these interests would be afforded by the restriction and prohibition of the immigration or importation of laborers from other countries, who swarm upon our shores, having no purpose or intent of becoming our fellow citizens, acquiring any permanent interest in our country, but who crowd every field of employment with unintelligent labor at wages which ought not to satisfy those who make claim to American citizenship.

The platform adopted by the late National Convention of our party contains the following declaration:

"Judged by democratic principles, the interests of the people are betrayed when, by unnecessary taxation, trusts and combinations are permitted and fostered, which while unduly enriching the few that combine, rob the body of our citizens by depriving them as purchasers of the benefits of natural competition."

TRUSTS CONDEMNED.

Such combinations have always been condemned by the democratic party. The declaration of its national Convention is sincerely made, and no member of our party will be found excusing the existence or belittling the pernicious results of these devices to wrong the people. Under various names they have been punished by the common law for hundreds of years, and they have lost none of their hateful features because they have assumed the name of trusts instead of conspiracies.

We believe that these trusts are the natural offspring of a market artificially restricted that an inordinately high tariff, besides furnishing the temptation for their existence enlarges the limit within which they may operate against the people and thus increase the extent of their power for wrong doing.

With an unalterable hatred of all such schemes we count the checking of their baleful operations among the good results promised by revenue reform.

While we cannot avoid par-

tisan misrepresentation our position upon the question of revenue reform should be so plainly stated as to admit of no misunderstanding.

THIS IS NO FREE TRADE CRUSADE.

We have entered upon no crusade of free trade. The reform we seek to inaugurate is predicted upon the utmost care for established industries and enterprises, a jealous regard for the interests of American labor and a sincere desire to relieve the country from the injustice and danger of a condition which threatens evil to all the people of the land.

We are dealing with no imaginary danger. Its existence has been repeatedly confessed by all political parties, and pledges of a remedy have been made on all sides.

Yet when in the legislative body, when under the constitution all remedial measures applicable to this subject must originate, the democratic majority were attempting with extreme moderation to redeem the pledge common to both parties, they were met by determined opposition and obstruction, and, the minority refusing to co-operate in the House of Representatives or propose another remedy, have remitted the redemption of their party pledge to the doubtful power of the Senate.

The people will hardly be deceived by their abandonment of the field of Legislative action to meet in political convention and flippantly declare in their party platform that our conservative and careful effort to relieve the situation is destructive to the American system of protection. Nor will the people be misled by the appeal to prejudice contained in the absurd allegation that we serve the interests of Europe, while they will support the interests of America.

REPUBLICAN DOUBLE DEALING.

They propose in their platform to thus support the interests of our country by removing the internal revenue tax from tobacco and spirits in the arts and for mechanical purposes. They declare also that there should be such a revision of our tariff laws as shall tend to check the importation of such articles as are produced here.

Thus in proposing to increase the duties upon such articles to nearly or quite a prohibitory point, they confess themselves willing to travel backward in the road of civilization and to deprive our people of the markets for their goods, which can only be gained and kept by the semblance, at least, of an interchange of business, while they abandon our consumers to the unrestrained oppression of the domestic trusts and combinations which are in the same platform purporting to be condemned. They propose rather to release entirely from import duties all articles of foreign production.

(Continued on 4th. page.)

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Sept. 1, 1888. 1y